

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. Claims 6-14 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Nguyen and Walberg in the March 9, 2004 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 64-060247, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,201,111 to Prohaska. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed in the personal interview, none of the applied art discloses punching said plurality of first dovetail convexities and said plurality of second dovetail convexities at middle portions of borders thereof generally equally at the same time so that the first and second convexities equally deform to fill gaps at the borders and tightly fit to each other, as recited in claim 1.

Publication '247 merely discloses that when a yoke is manufactured, a steel board is pressed to provide recesses and projections; that the recesses have arched inner circumferences; and that linear jointing parts can be contacted tightly by expanding the projections by means of an expander (Abstract). Prohaska merely discloses a metal blank 10 including toothing 11 (Fig. 1).

Thus, none of the applied art disclose punching said plurality of first dovetail convexities and said plurality of second dovetail convexities at middle portions of borders thereof generally equally at the same time so that the first and second convexities equally deform to fill gaps at the borders and tightly fit to each other.

Moreover, as discussed in the personal interview, none of the applied art can provide the advantages of the present invention in manufacturing a yoke having a generally accurate circularity. Furthermore, none of the applied art disclose that punching the first and second dovetail convexities at their border results in expanding uniformity, and in improving the circularity of the yoke that provides a small and accurate air gap between a rotor and a stator without additional machining.

Instead, for example, Publication '247 presents problems, such as differences in shape and thickness between one side and the other side which may cause the circularity of the yoke to be inaccurate.

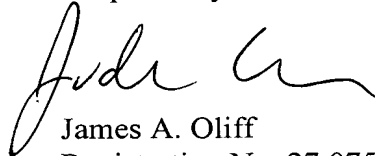
As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguishable over the applied art. Furthermore, claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under §103 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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